

## War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: John Williams

Current home town: Howard, Ohio

Age: 88

My name is John (Jack) Williams. I enlisted in the Army in November, 1942, and took my basic training at Ft. Riley, Kansas. I served in the 33rd Cavalry -20th Armored Division. I had learned Morse code prior to enlistment, so they made me and three other men code instructors. After some time, they sent me to radio maintenance school at Ft. Riley. We set up radio equipment at Camp Whiteside (Part of Riley). We were sent to LeHarve, France as replacement troops for the ones at the Bulge. We made our way through France, Belgium and Germany, and wound up in Austria on VE Day. We had some wounded but no KIA's, Thank God.

We were spearheading: make contact with the Germans then hold on until the big stuff arrived, then we moved on to the next location for the next contact. We had 21 days straight of combat, then the resistance slowed down until VE Day. Then we visited the Eagle Nest, along with Jack Benny, Ingrid Bergman, Martha Tilton and Larry Adler. We took Jack Benny to Breakfast in Goering's car; He loved it. We visited a Prison Camp that had the ovens – cleaned up, of course.

I received an honorable discharge in California – I was scheduled for the invasion of Japan, but we all know that President Truman took care of that.

Note: I was a Paper Boy (*Columbus Dispatch*) prior to moving to the Beechwood Area. I picked up papers behind the old street car barn at Olengtangy and High St. My Route was Olentangy and Indianaola. I still love the *Dispatch*. Our present delivery person is great; she knows I have a walking problem and gets my paper as close to the garage door as possible. Our driveway is her turn-around spot, so it handy for both of us, and very welcome to do so.